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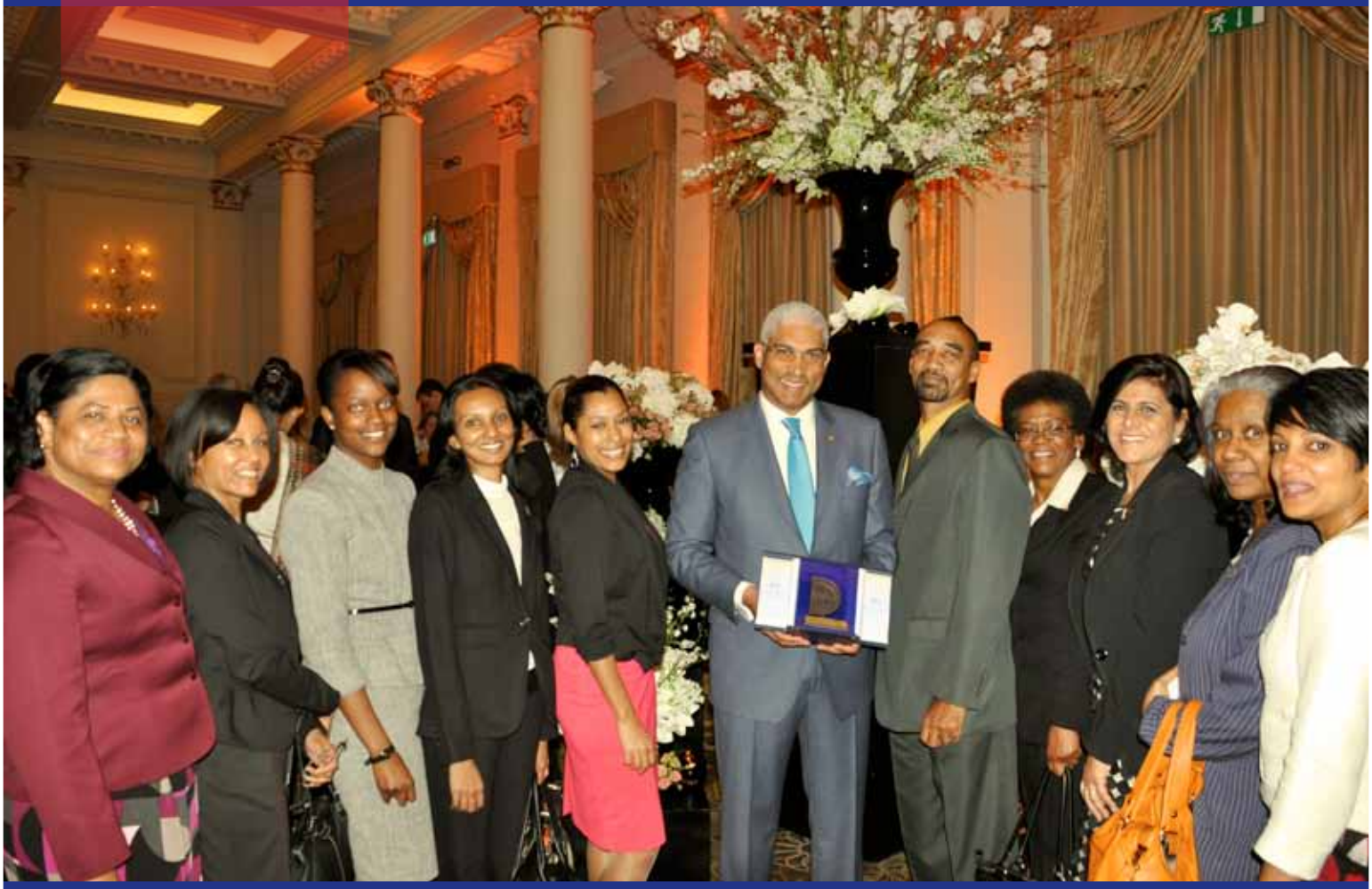

DIPLOMAT

HIGH COMMISSIONER GARVIN NICHOLAS

DIPLOMAT OF THE YEAR FROM THE AMERICAS

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ISSUE 63

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The Fund was Created and established in November 2010 by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Children's Life Fund's aegis is to provide urgent relief for children, assisting those who live in the shadow of disease and illness. The Fund has also received support from the renewed charity medical Schriners Children's Hospital. In addition, all Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament contribute 5% of their salary to the Fund.

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For more information on The Children's Life Fund please visit *www.clfa.org.tt*

MESSAGE FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HIS EXCELLENCY, GARVIN NICHOLAS

I wish to extend warm greetings to all nationals and friends of Trinidad and Tobago. With July upon us, we have reached the midpoint of the year – a time which is apt for reflection. We look back at our accomplishments of the year so far and more importantly, look forward to achieving the goals we have set for ourselves.

2013 began with the Mission and our nationals abroad still buzzing with excitement from our successful Trinidad and Tobago Cultural Village in 2012, which was a grand four and half-weeks celebration of Trinidad and Tobago's 50th Anniversary. In 2013, we vowed to build on the significant exposure garnered by the Cultural Village and ensure that Trinidad and Tobago's flag flew proudly in the United Kingdom and beyond.

In addition to our various regular cultural events, we are especially proud of the fantastic showcase of Trinidad and Tobago's culture and arts at "The World on Regent Street" festival this past May. Attracting thousands of visitors, our Mission succeeded in our goal of highlighting Trinidad and Tobago's unique and vivacious music, cuisine, art forms and people on a massive international stage. The Mission has continuously brought the rich culture and heritage of Trinidad and Tobago to new audiences at various festivals throughout the United Kingdom, and is heartened by the ardent support of our foreign based nationals.

In the past few months the Mission has also heightened its

business outreach in the United Kingdom. In May I enjoyed a fruitful visit to the great maritime capital of Liverpool. There I met with various business organisations and the Lord Mayor of Liverpool to discuss tourism and trade and investment opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as areas for cooperation between our regions. As a result, Trinidad and Tobago and Liverpool will now enjoy enhanced linkages with strong potential for partnership and development.

Another highlight of the year so far has been being awarded the Diplomat of the Year from the Americas Award. This was a significant moment, as the winner of this award is nominated and voted on by peers within the international diplomatic community. Awarding the honour to a Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner is strong testament to the good work of this Mission and the notable strides we have made in representing the interests of Trinidad and Tobago on the world stage.

There has also been considerable work done with regard to the Commonwealth, which is currently in a transition phase. As the representative for Trinidad and Tobago on the Executive Committee and on the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth Secretariat, I joined in efforts to ensure that the needs of small states remained a priority. This month, I ended my 2-year term as Chair of the Grants Committee of the Commonwealth Foundation and as representative on the Commonwealth Foundation Executive Committee. I have also been honoured to speak about Trinidad and Tobago's strong relationship with the Commonwealth at many Commonwealth-related events and will continue to actively pursue opportunities to raise Trinidad and Tobago's profile in these fora.

Of course, there is still much that can be achieved, and my staff and I are steadfast in our objective of establishing rewarding and sustainable linkages between Trinidad and Tobago and the United Kingdom, and indeed the wider Commonwealth, and promoting Trinidad and Tobago as a world class destination for business and tourism.

I hope you all enjoy this quarter's news from our Mission, and I look forward to seeing and hearing from you at our monthly Nationals' meetings and via our various web and social media channels.

Yours Truly

H.E. Garvin Nicholas

CORPUS CHRISTI GREETINGS FROM HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT ANTHONY CARMONA

Above: *His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, SC, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.*

Thursday 30th May, 2013

For Roman Catholics, here at home and abroad, Corpus Christi (Latin for "the body of Christ") is a religious feast. For others, the holiday has also become known as a fortuitous day for planting, with many believing that any crops planted on this day will be successful and high yielding.

This holy feast day celebrates the body of Jesus Christ, which was broken, and His blood, which was poured out, as He made the ultimate sacrifice and laid down His life for the world. This paradigm of love, sacrifice and wholehearted commitment to one another's well-being represents a core Christian belief. Given the times in which we live, it may well be appropriate for us, on this holy day, to engage a greater sense of morality, spirituality and brotherhood in our daily lives. A commitment to be a better person will always be in our national best interest and will necessarily produce the side effect of a more peaceful, more civil and loving society.

My family and I wish you, the Roman Catholic community, and the entire nation, a happy and holy Corpus Christi.

May God continue to bless our nation.

INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER KAMLA PERSAD-BISSESSAR

Above: *The Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.*

Thursday 30th May, 2013

One hundred and sixty-eight (168) years ago, a ship from a distant country landed on these shores with a cargo of people tired and hungry from a long journey and grateful that they had, at long last, reached their destination. This ship brought not only a new labour force to assist in the economic development of our twin island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, but also a new people with a new culture.

These were our East Indian ancestors – men, women, and children - many of whom eventually made this new land, called Trinidad and Tobago, their home.

Our beloved Nation is a veritable melting pot of peoples and cultures and this is what makes us unique - our unity in diversity. That we are able to live side by side in harmony and peace as one united people in the midst of the troubling disquiet of the world scenario speaks volumes of our collective character as a people and as a Nation.

In particular, today we are reminded that the East Indian observances of Divali, Eid-ul-Fitr, Phagwa and Hosay have, over the years, become part of the cultural fabric of Trinidad and Tobago. East Indian dishes are now enjoyed by a large cross section of the population and are part of the national cuisine. The very rhythm of our Nation often pulsates with the sounds of the cutter, fooley, dhol and jhanj – the tassa choir.

Jawaharlal Nehru (1889-1964), former Prime Minister of India, once said: "Culture is the widening of the mind and of the spirit". Indeed, we have all embraced the spirit of the varied cultures and traditions of the many peoples who have come to our shores and have made our country the beautiful place that it is, despite the ever-present challenges that beset us as a growing democracy.

Together we have forged a ▸▸

strong, stable, and vibrant democracy with a respect for the rule of law, for our democratic traditions, workers' rights, human rights, the environment, and ethical practices. Our mandate, as a united people, must be to improve on what we have already achieved.

As a people we have faced many challenges, and we will no doubt face many more, but, through resilience and strength of character, we shall persevere and overcome all of them.

More than ever today our Nation is recognized as an economic Leader within our Region. Though geographically small, our stature is elevated by our creativity, our capacity to attract new business and our gravitas for bringing to the forefront issues of global concern. Such passion, determination and acumen are representative of all of us as a Nation.

Today we honour the legacy and achievement of our East Indian brothers and sisters proud in the knowledge that their contribution, like that of the many others who now call Trinidad and Tobago home, is helping to distinguish our young Nation on the world stage.

As we celebrate Indian Arrival Day 2013, we are ever mindful of the many sacrifices that our East Indian ancestors have made and are eternally grateful for their contribution to the religious, cultural, and economic landscape of Trinidad and Tobago. As they were sustained by the values and traditions brought from a distant land; so too they have passed these traditions to the younger generations to enable us to build a great Nation that we can leave in the capable hands of our children – guided as they will be by the same core values, traditions, and principles that have shaped our own lives.

On this occasion of Indian Arrival Day 2013, let us then re-dedicate ourselves to justice, peace, harmony, respect, and good will among all citizens for a brighter and more prosperous Trinidad and Tobago.

Happy Indian Arrival Day to all citizens of our beloved Nation.

The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, S.C., M.P.

CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING MAKES HISTORIC VISIT TO T&T

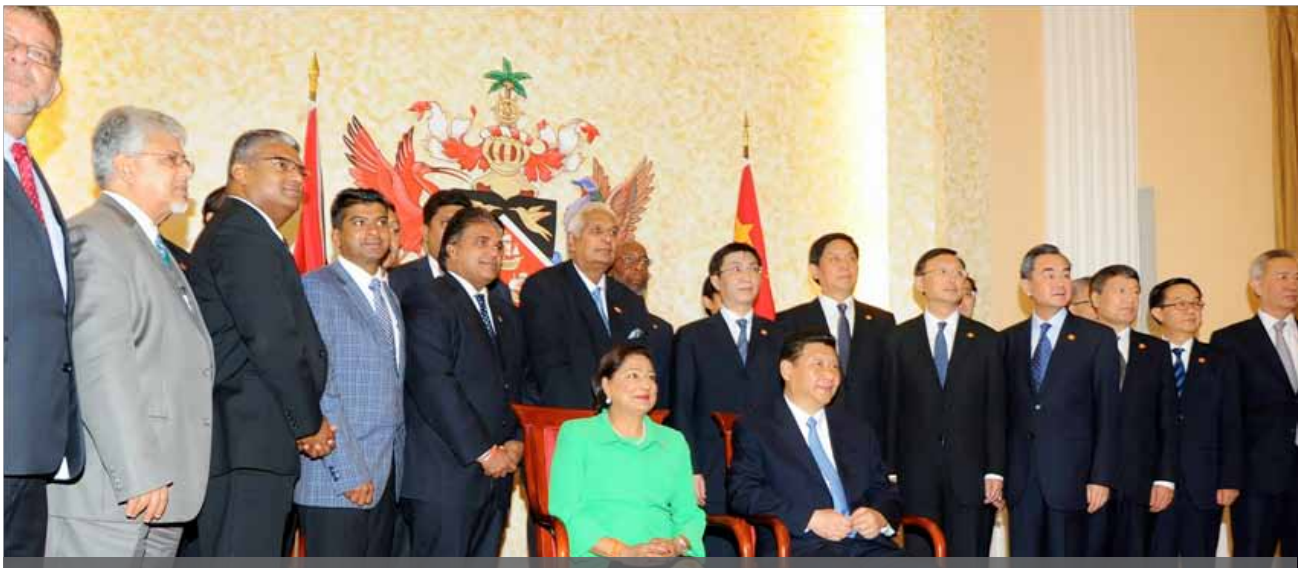
Sunday 1st June, 2013

By Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar, SC, MP

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is honoured to host His Excellency Xi Jinping, of the People's Republic of China (PRC), on his first visit to this region since being elected President of the PRC. This state visit by His Excellency to Trinidad and Tobago is particularly historic and significant because it is the first visit of a President of the People's Republic of China to the English-speaking Caribbean.

Pictured: *His Excellency Xi Jinping converses with His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, SC.*

As Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, I attach great importance to the relationship which our country has developed with China since the 1970s. This relationship is one of strategic geopolitical partnership because both China and Trinidad and Tobago understand what it is like to be a developing country struggling to buffer ourselves against the negative aspects of globalization while positioning ourselves to take advantage of the positive fruits of a rapidly globalized world. ▶▶



Pictured: *The Trinidad and Tobago and Chinese delegations flank Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and His Excellency Xi Jinping*

We have been unwavering in our support of the "One China Policy" of the People's Republic of China and have demonstrated that support through our close to 40 years of diplomatic relations with this emerging global power.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has enjoyed over those years a truly excellent bilateral relationship that has been characterized by extensive trade in goods and services, economic and technical cooperation, and High-level visits like this one. Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs has worked closely with the Chinese Embassy in Port of Spain to foster that friendly diplomatic relationship between our two countries.

While our population of 1.3 million people is dwarfed by China's 1.3 billion people, Trinidad and Tobago has certain commodities which the growing middle class in China needs. Our exports to China, while relatively small in the context of our country's total exports, consists of such items as asphalt, methanol, liquefied natural gas, copper, and scrap metals.

In 2011, China's Vice Premier Wang Qishan unveiled a suite of measures, right here in Trinidad and Tobago, which provided US$6.3 billion in loans to governments of the region. Some of those funds were intended to help Trinidad and Tobago increase its level of exports to China.

Trinidad and Tobago has become the 5th largest import market for Chinese products. From China, we import everything from diesel buses, ferro-silicon manganese, iron/steel tubes and pipes, re-factory bricks, woven fabrics, and carnival costumes.

The value of bilateral trade between China and Trinidad and Tobago reached a historic figure of US$ 627 million in 2011. Yes, there is an imbalance in that trade and that gap keeps getting wider. The trade deficit between our two countries was US$158.7 million in 2005 and by 2010 it jumped to US$380.9 million, both in favour of China.

We would hope this gap can be reduced as our entrepreneurs in business take up the challenge of the Chinese President to increase exports to China. Trinidad and Tobago's soon to be established Embassy in Beijing will facilitate the promotion and expansion of our trade in China and further strengthen the ties that exist between our two nations.

During this visit of His Excellency, Xi Jinping, our aim is to set the stage for a deepening of the bilateral relationship between our Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the People's Republic of China in areas such as trade and investment, energy, infrastructural development, technical cooperation, tourism, and cultural and educational exchanges.

President Xi Jinping's "China Dream" is no different from ours, viz., to achieve national prosperity, the revitalization of the nation, and ensure the happiness of its citizens. As we did close to 40 years ago, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago will collaborate with the Republic of China in pursuit of sustainable development for our people and our nation.

http://unctt.org/historic-visit-of-a-chinese-president

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VICE PRESIDENT VISITS T&T

Biden- US deeply invested in developing a partnership with the region

May 28, 2013

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, along with other CARICOM leaders discussed economic, trade, energy and security issues with US Vice President Joseph Biden at the Diplomatic Centre in Port of Spain today.

Pictured: *US Vice President Joe Biden with T&T Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar*

The US Vice President along with the Haitian President and outgoing CARICOM Chairman, described the discussions as frank, but the Prime Minister added the phrase "brutal at times" in her description of the talks.

During his address at a Press Conference hosted at the Diplomatic Centre, Biden stated that 'US is deeply invested in developing a partnership with the region'. He made this statement to media gathered for the briefing before the signing of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement between Caricom and the United States.

He spoke about addressing reforming the US' immigration policy to facilitate the 11 million illegal immigrants living in the shadows in the United States; not just illegal immigrants from the Caribbean region, but from Ireland, Japan, Africa and other parts of the Americas.

Biden noted that more than 3.6 million persons of Caribbean origins who now reside in the United States travel constantly between the region and the US and these legal residents send more than US $8 billion in remittances back to their home countries in the Caribbean.

He said reforming the immigration policy was about people and about showing respect.

The US Vice President also noted that last week, the US signed an MOU with Trinidad and Tobago to launch a Renewable Energy Research Centre here for the Caribbean at large.

http://www.news.gov.tt/index.php?news=12950

CARICOM, US SIGN TRADE & INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

Tuesday 28th May, 2013

(CARICOM Secretariat, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana)

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the United States signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) today in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. CARICOM Chairman, His Excellency Michel Martelly, the President of Haiti and Mr Joseph Biden the Vice President of the United States signed on behalf of the two sides.

The signing ceremony took place following a meeting between CARICOM Heads of Government and the US Vice President at the Diplomatic Centre in Port of Spain.

The Agreement is expected to drive strengthened trade and investment ties between CARICOM and the United States as it would serve as a mechanism ▸▸

⏩ for the two sides to develop practical strategies on a wide range of trade, investment and economic cooperation issues. This is seen as essential to spurring economic development and diversification of the Region, and to contributing to improvement in the well-being of our citizens. The implementation of the Agreement will be executed under the mechanism of the CARICOM-US Trade and Investment Council which will be led by a nominee of the CARICOM Chair and the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

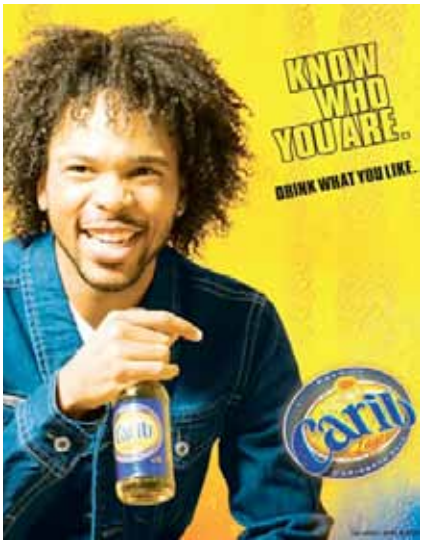
The TIFA, which is the result of a revision of an Agreement signed in 1991, takes account of the multilateral trading environment created by the WTO, as well as changes in the regional environment brought on by the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

An Initial Action Agenda, which is annexed to the Agreement, sets out areas for attention which include matters relating to the WTO; bilateral trade and investment arrangements; cooperation in regional and multilateral areas; support for regional integration; cooperation to promote and respect fundamental labour rights, social protection, and workforce development; and the facilitation of trade and investment opportunities.

In addition, the Agreement establishes the framework for the discussion of issues to address the digital divide through the promotion of innovation and the dissemination of technology for increasing competitiveness, job creation, economic development and trade, as well as for discussing US trade and investment-related legislation which have extra-territorial impact. Specific examples of legislation in this regard are the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), and the New US Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

There are also other issues of critical importance to CARICOM, particularly with respect to export development, which through engagement with Representatives and Officials of the United States Administration and the Congress, mutually acceptable outcomes would be achieved. Among the issues of critical and urgent importance to CARICOM are the threat faced by CARICOM exports of rum in the US market and the US/Antigua and Barbuda cross-border gambling services dispute. In addition the Agreement will allow for monitoring of developments in the context of the United States President's 2013 Trade Policy Agenda.

Signing of the revised TIFA also signalled the formal launch of the revitalized Trade and Investment Council (TIC) which would be essential for CARICOM and the US to engage in the areas mentioned. A first meeting of the United States-CARICOM Trade and Investment Council under the revised TIFA is envisioned before the end of 2013.



T&T PARTICIPATES IN 39TH CMAG MEETING

The Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs recently articulated Trinidad and Tobago's position on recent political developments in Fiji as he exchanged views with his counterparts from Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Jamaica, Maldives: Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Vanuatu at the Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG).

The meeting was held at Marlborough House in London on 26th April, 2013.

The Minister was supported by H.E. Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom and Ambassador Dennis Francis, Director, Multilateral Relations at the Foreign Ministry.

MINISTER DOOKERAN ASSUMES CHAIRMANSHIP OF COFCOR

The Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, assumed Chairmanship of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) and Chaired the Sixteenth Meeting which took place in Port of Spain during the period 14th to 15th May, 2013.

The Council for Foreign and Community Relations consists of Ministers Responsible for the Foreign Affairs of Member States. Subject to the provisions of Article 12 (Functions and Powers of the Conference) of the Revised Treaty establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, COFCOR is responsible for determining relations between the Community and international organisations and Third States.

At the Opening Ceremony for the Sixteenth Meeting of COFCOR, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, Secretary General of CARICOM extended a special welcome to Minister Dookeran, new Chair of COFCOR. He further indicated that he hoped the Sixteenth Meeting of COFCOR would provide an opportunity for CARICOM Member States to adopt, adapt and to strategise on the policies and best practices suited for them.

In his opening statement, Minister Dookeran thanked his colleague Foreign Ministers for giving him the honour and for being part of what he deemed would be a significant time in the history and conduct of foreign relations in Trinidad and Tobago and in the Caribbean.

He reminded his colleagues of some of the major world issues in which CARICOM was at the forefront, namely, Apartheid, the Rome Statute, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and more recently the conclusion of the Arms Trade Treaty. The Honourable Minister indicated that the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations "was a clear manifestation of the strength and energy that comes from common positions and Caribbean countries were able to mobilise a common position on this matter and work together on the multilateral front on issues that are indeed central and pivotal to the vital interest of the Region."

THE MISSION WELCOMES NEW SECOND SECRETARY

Ms. Keisha Rochford-Hawkins
Second Secretary

On June 26th, the High Commission welcomed our new Second Secretary, Ms. Keisha Rochford-Hawkins. Ms. Rochford-Hawkins will assist the High Commissioner with Multilateral Relations, with a focus on the progress of the International Sugar Organization (ISO) and the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO). She will also assist with Bilateral Relations, working to strengthen relations between the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Finland as well as Norway.

Ms. Rochford-Hawkins will also be primarily responsible for Consular and Student Services, with duties including:

- Attending to Nationals in Distress
- Arrests/Detentions of nationals abroad
- Assisting Nationals in obtaining visas
- Death overseas (repatriation of remains)
- Authentication of Documents/ Notary
- Assisting Nationals in obtaining Birth Certificates
- Sick Leave transmission
- Credentials of Medical Practitioners
- Assisting Nationals in obtaining copies of Marriage Certificates and in having them attested and authenticated
- Assistance to Student/ Student Services
- Missing Persons

We are pleased to have Ms. Rochford-Hawkins on board and are confident that she will be a great asset to our Mission.

HIGH COMMISSIONER WINS DIPLOMAT OF THE YEAR FROM THE AMERICAS AWARD

Above: *His Excellency Garvin Nicholas stands with fellow awardees at the Diplomat Awards.* ***Below:*** *His Excellency displays the Diplomat of the Year from the Americas award.*

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas has won the coveted Diplomat of the Year from the Americas Award in his role as High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

London is host to one of the largest diplomatic communities comprising some of the most experienced and influential diplomats in the world.

High Commissioner Nicholas was nominated and voted for by his peers in the Diplomatic Community in the UK. The Award Ceremony was put on by DIPLOMAT magazine at the Langham Hotel in London and hosted by former British Ambassador to the United States, Sir Christopher Meyer.

Nicholas has lifted the image and influence of Trinidad and Tobago in the UK and the Commonwealth over the last two and a half years.

Nicholas has served Trinidad and Tobago with distinction as:

- Member of the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth Secretariat
- Member of the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth Foundation
- Member of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Foundation
- Chairman of the Grants Committee of the Commonwealth Foundation
- Member of the Commonwealth Education Trust
- Member of the Commonwealth Advisory Panel for the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust
- Chairman of the Sub-Committee of the CARICOM High Commissioners for Trade and Development
- Member of a Sub-Committee to rationalise the Strategic Plan of the Commonwealth Secretariat

Trinidad and Tobago is also a member of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG).

As a result of his efforts, Trinidad and Tobago is now recognised as an active and influential participant in the quest to strike a balance between human rights, democracy and development issues as the ▸▸

Commonwealth charts its future.

Trinidad and Tobago's culture has been significantly exposed to the diplomatic community and the general population of the UK with initiatives such as the very impressive four and a half week Cultural Village put on during the summer of 2012, our Golden Jubilee year, and the annual Parang and varied religious receptions hosted by Nicholas in the UK.

Most importantly, Nicholas has been able to present a professional and uplifting image of Trinidad and Tobago and has been able to attract direct investment interest towards Trinidad and Tobago in the Energy, Tourism, Manufacturing, Financial and Infrastructure Development sectors.

Nicholas, who came within a few hundred votes of winning the Diego Martin North East constituency in the 2010 General Elections, noted that while he enjoyed his role as High Commissioner, he got into politics to serve the people and enjoys his role most when it impacts directly and positively on the lives of people.

Nicholas thanked his staff for their invaluable support to him in the execution of his role and noted that his successes would not have been possible without that support.

In moving forward he wished to note that, "Trinidad and Tobago is a nation with huge potential, sometimes you get a better appreciation for the potential from a distance. We however need to be far more proactive as well as responsive to opportunities as the best opportunities do not wait for us to deliberate indefinitely."

Pictured: *The High Commissioner is flanked by his son Alexei and wife, Dr. Nicola Alcala*

HIGH COMMISSIONER MAKES BUSINESS OUTREACH VISIT TO LIVERPOOL

High Commissioner talks trade and tourism with Liverpool

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom, recently concluded a visit to Liverpool, a whirlwind trip which saw the High Commissioner convene with the Lord Mayor and business heads on boosting trade and tourism links between Liverpool and

Pictured: *Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Gary Millar chats with His Excellency Garvin Nicholas*

Trinidad and Tobago. The trip, which took place on May 28th – 29th, highlighted the High Commissioner's objective of developing more profound trade and business connections in all major hubs of the United Kingdom.

The High Commissioner engaged in talks with the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Gary Millar, with discussions focused on the myriad commercial and investment opportunities at hand in Trinidad and Tobago. Councillor Millar described the meeting with the High Commissioner as highly productive, stating "I am excited about the prospect of future collaboration with Trinidad and Tobago. We have many similar areas of focus such as tourism development, and there is much we can learn from each other".

The High Commissioner was pleased with the inroads which had been established with public and private sector stakeholders in Liverpool.

A business reception was held at the Liverpool Town Hall with guests including representatives from Liverpool Vision and the Chamber of Commerce. Officers from the High Commission delivered presentations on trade and investment opportunities and the tourism industry in Trinidad and Tobago, which were well received by the crowd. The High Commissioner remarked, "The City of Liverpool and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago share much in common with regard to our mutual emphasis on new business development in areas such as film and tourism. In particular, as a leader in maritime commerce, Liverpool can be a key partner in Trinidad and Tobago's port development initiatives".

Trinidad and Tobago nationals living in the city also had the opportunity to meet with the High Commissioner at a Diaspora reception on Tuesday 28th May. Meeting with Trinidad and Tobago nationals was high on the High Commissioner's agenda. "It is important to me that our nationals abroad feel that they are part of a close-knit Diaspora community," he stated. "I am appreciative of these opportunities which afford me the chance to interact personally with our nationals, and I am keen to revitalise connections with Trinidad and Tobago nationals who have contributed to Liverpool's dynamic society".

Pictured: *The High Commissioner with a Carnival character.*

The High Commissioner was afforded the opportunity to tour the city on an open bus tour, and was markedly impressed by Liverpool's strident approach to tourism. A noteworthy stop on the tour was the newly refurbished Central Library, a particular point of pride for Liverpudlians after its three-year, £55 million overhaul. Nicholas noted its inclusive environment and the combination of stunning, innovative facilities within the historic building. "Liverpool is a city which successfully capitalises on its historic sites and unique heritage to promote tourism, which is an area Trinidad and Tobago can learn valuable lessons", he said. The High Commissioner also visited the Liverpool Slavery Museum, where he was struck by the comprehensive detailing of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

A highlight of the visit was the Air Cadets' Parade on Tuesday which featured the 7F Squadron (City of Liverpool) ATC. The High Commissioner himself participated in an awards ceremony honouring two young cadets for their outstanding achievements.

His Excellency presented a blue lanyard to 18 year old Cadet Sergeant Guglielnio Marenco for completing the (QUAIC) Qualified Aviation Instructor Cadet Course. He also presented a maroon lanyard to 18 year old Cadet Flight Sergeant Joseph Campion for successful completion of a 9 month Junior Leaders course. It was a significant moment for both the High Commissioner and the 7F Squadron, whose cadets are the only two in the United Kingdom to receive accolades from the Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner. His Excellency addressed the Squadron, recounting his personal experience as a cadet in Trinidad and Tobago, stating "this experience is something which will always stay with you. The strength of character you develop here will serve ▶▶

▶▶ you well for the rest of your lives".

The High Commissioner's two-day visit yielded considerable attention for Trinidad and Tobago not only as a highly attractive centre for investment but as a preferred destination for tourism.

"It is imperative that we seek new opportunities internationally for our unique and exciting product mix," Nicholas declared. "As a consequence of our stay in Liverpool I anticipate significant interest in our country's diverse offerings. Our Mission is in a pivotal position to capitalise on these opportunities for investment and collaboration, and will build a bridge between Liverpool and by extension, the United Kingdom and Trinidad and Tobago"

Pictured - L-R : *Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips, Tourism Attaché, Lord Mayor Councillor Gary Millar, Mrs. Karen Thomas, Trade Facilitator, High Commissioner Garvin Nichoas and Councillor Natalie Nicholas.*

Photos- Gareth Jones, Liverpool Echo Newspaper

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP TACKLE APD

Trinidad and Tobago All-Party Parliamentary Group mobilises against APD increase in London

The troubling issue of the Air Passenger Duty (APD) increase was the top priority on the agenda when the Trinidad and Tobago All-Party Parliamentary Group (TTAPPG) convened at the House of Lords in London, United Kingdom on Tuesday 18th June. The TTAPPG was established in 2011 by Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas, who saw a need for more cohesive representation of Trinidad and Tobago's interests in the United Kingdom. The TTAPPG is comprised of representatives of both Houses of Parliament in the United Kingdom with the objective of advancing bilateral relations between the island state and the United Kingdom.

The Annual General Meeting of the TTAPPG was chaired by Baroness Floella Benjamin OBE and was attended by the High Commissioner, several Parliamentary representatives, and various tourism and cultural stakeholders. Trinidad and Tobago Energy Minister Kevin Ramnarine was a special guest at the proceedings.

The Meeting centred on the debilitating effects of the APD increase, with participants citing the drastic decrease in air travel to the Caribbean and its subsequent adverse impact on the region's economy. General Manager for Government External Relations of Virgin Atlantic, Ms. Sian Foster, stated

that over 42,000 passengers have flown with Virgin to the Caribbean yearly, contributing to a significant boost in the local economies. The APD increase accounts for a £83 tax on standard fares and £166 tax on business class fares. Ms. Foster explained that with the increase, Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) were hit hard, resulting in a loss of passengers from the Caribbean Diaspora.

Pictured: *The High Commissioner addresses the members of the Trinidad and Tobago All-Party Parliamentary Group*

The High Commissioner underscored the inequity in the taxation, pointing to the huge disparity between the APD for short haul flights and long haul flights. "This tax is in fact discriminatory to the Caribbean," he stated. "Short hauls account for 80% of all flights, yet there is actually a freeze on the APD for that band. This goes against everything the UK speaks of with regard to reaching out to other markets and contributing to trade and economic activity". Nicholas went on to cite the 2012 Travel Trend Report of the UK Office for National Statistics which showed that the number of business trips to the Caribbean has been halved, from 34,000 visits in 2011 to 18,000 in 2012.

The TTAPPG looks to boost its lobbying efforts to the UK government on this issue with the support of its Parliamentary representatives.

The Group has been actively mobilising members of the Caribbean Diaspora on the issue, encouraging them to petition their government representatives. Baroness Benjamin vowed to ensure that the representatives worked hard to give their support on the matter, stating the importance of Trinidad and Tobago in motivating the rest of the region to take strident action.

"I am proud of the progress the TTAPPG has made on highlighting pertinent issues affecting relations between the United Kingdom and Trinidad and Tobago", stated the High Commissioner. "This is a necessary platform for mobilising the necessary parties to make real change and protect our interests".

THE MISSION WELCOMES NEW IMMIGRATION ATTACHÉ

Mr. David Hinkson
Immigration Attaché

The Mission welcomes our new Immigration Attaché, Mr. David Hinkson.

In May 2013, the esteemed Mr. Narinesingh Lal completed his duties as Immigration Attaché to the High Commission for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom.

Mr. David Hinkson has been appointed as our new Immigration Attaché, and the Mission is pleased to have this experienced professional on board.

As Immigration Attaché, Mr. Hinkson is responsible for:

- Consular & Immigration matters
- Passport &Visas
- Nationals in distress
- Prison visits
- Airport duties
- Liaison with our overseas Missions in Europe, India and Africa and our Honorary Consuls in Europe on immigration matters.

The Mission warmly welcomes Mr. Hinkson and is confident his stewardship of Immigration matters will lead to the enhanced capacity of this department.

T&T LEAD UK OIL TRADING TALKS

***Pictured**: (L-R) Dr. Wayne Bertrand , Dr. Dax Driver , Ms. Natalie-Anne de Silva , His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, Blair Ferguson and other members of the T&T delegation, Mr. Rodney Jagai - Associate Professor at University of Trinidad and Tobago, Captain H. Anthony Vieira - Managing Director, HHSL Safety Systems ltd.*

On 4th June 2013, the High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom participated in the 9th Education & Training Event for the Global Exploration and Production (E&P) Industry at the Design Centre in London, UK.

The "Get Energy" learning area provided a dynamic networking platform for training providers, academic institutions and service companies as well as global oil companies and their learning partners. The High Commissioner was part of a Trinidad and Tobago delegation which included The Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago, HHSL, Kenson, UWI, UTT, and TTCSI. Trinidad and Tobago's participation in the event was facilitated by The Trinidad and Tobago Collation of Services Industries (TTCSI) in collaboration with the Energy Chamber.

Trinidad and Tobago representatives led the first session of the event with a presentation on the day's theme of "Learning and Development as part of the Exploration and Production business strategy". Speakers included Dr. Dax Driver, Chief Executive Officer of the Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago; Dr. Wayne Bertrand, Head of Petroleum Studies Faculty of Engineering of the University of the West Indies and Blair Ferguson, Vice President of Operations of Kenson.

The presenters shared Trinidad and Tobago's strategy for tackling the issues of measuring, monitoring and managing competency levels of workers in the E&P sector through the implementation of an Energy Industry Competency Development Initiative (EICDI). The attentive audience learned that such an initiative was imperative to the development of national capacity in competency assurance. The speakers also noted that the EICDI was necessary to ensure local companies' achievement of high job standards in accordance with the guidelines of the National Training Agency (NTA).

On Wednesday 5th June, the day's theme was "Developing Skills for Oil and Gas technologies". Dr. Wayne Bertrand, Head of Petroleum Studies in the Faculty of Engineering at The University of the West Indies under, led the open panel discussion on "Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR): Coaching new petroleum geoscientists and engineers for decision making in reservoir intervention". Dr. Bertrand stated, "People required for EOR projects are often in short supply, so coaching is an effective way of preparing less experienced geoscientists with the confidence and competencies required".

High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas remarked, "Opportunities like these for networking and sharing of professional experiences among industry experts from all across the globe are instrumental to Trinidad and Tobago's continued growth and development. For our country to take a leading role in such discussions is a clear indication of the prominence of our oil and gas industry on the world stage".

HIGH COMMISSIONER MEETS WITH T&T HONORARY CONSULS

Pictured: *His Excellency is flanked by the Trinidad and Tobago Honorary Consuls*

On Monday 22nd April, High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas together with Trinidad and Tobago Honorary Consuls convened for a day of intensive talks and training at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London.

Discussions centred on Trinidad and Tobago's current socio-economic climate, strategic development priorities, trade and investment opportunities and immigration policy.

In attendance were Honorary Consuls Mr. Ingo Meyr, Munich, Germany; Mr. Howard M.S. Kroch, Hamburg, Germany; Mr. Kurt Brusgaard, Denmark and Mr. Rolf E. Holmen, Norway. Mr. Bernd Listner, Cologne and Bonne, Germany, was represented at the conference by his assistant, Ms. Kirsten Ockel.

The Honorary Consuls serve an integral role in the promotion of Trinidad and Tobago in their respective jurisdictions.

High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas emphasised the Honorary Consuls' significant potential for fostering Trinidad and Tobago's foreign trade and investment opportunities between Europe and the twin island state.

In his Welcoming Address, the High Commissioner highlighted the changing role of diplomacy from mere representation to active economic engagement. He also noted the responsibility of the Honorary Consuls to act as conduits for trade expansion and promotion, ventures which will be pursued in concert with the Trade and Business Division at the High Commission.

The forum also provided the Honorary Consuls with the opportunity to become acquainted, via web conferencing, with the 2013 strategic plans of ExporTT, as well as the promotional activities of InvesTT and Tourism Development Company (TDC).

The High Commissioner stressed the need for increased communication and knowledge transfer between the Honorary Consuls and Trinidad and Tobago to ensure efficient promotion of the country's interests. Mr. Kroch, Honorary Consul for Hamburg, Germany echoed the High Commissioner's sentiments, remarking, "This has been a very meaningful meeting. We look forward to working more closely with the High Commission on expanding our role as representatives of Trinidad and Tobago to Europe".

THE MISSION WELCOMES NEW TOURISM ATTACHÉ

The Mission welcomes our new Tourism Attaché, Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips.

With over 6 years of business process reengineering and business management consulting experience across many sectors in both the private and public sector in Trinidad and Tobago, and England, Ms. Phillips is responsible for establishing and managing the tourism promotion and tourism investment portfolio within the High Commission. Ms. Phillips is also the new Head of the Public Affairs, Culture and Tourism Department.

Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips
Tourism Attaché

The Tourism Attaché will assist the High Commissioner in:

- establishing and maintaining tourism links with the countries to which this Mission is accredited (The United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Germany);
- exploring technical co-operation opportunities as well as exchange programmes that will be beneficial to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago;
- promoting the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago as a preferred destination for tourism and assist in the effective implementation of tourism initiatives and agreements.
- promoting tourism investment opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago

Ms. Phillips brings with her a passion for the advancement of Trinidad and Tobago as a world class tourist destination. As she says, "Trinidad and Tobago must capitalise on our rich and unique culture and landscapes. Tourism provides an optimal area for the successful diversification of our economy, and I look forward to driving investment opportunities in the UK and abroad".

According to Ms. Phillips, "the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Tobago House of Assembly are both dedicated to raising the profile of Trinidad and Tobago as an ideal destination for tourism investment. The introduction of attractive investment incentives, as well as Town and Country Planning's approval of land designated for investors in the tourism sector demonstrates the strong commitment to developing this industry".

CFAB SPRING FAIR & FOOD FESTIVAL

Top: *Tourism Attaché Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips serves a customer.* ***Below:*** *Steel pan performers on stage.*

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission to the United Kingdom put the national culture on display at the CFAB 54th International Spring Fair & Food Festival on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th May. Held at the Kensington Town Hall in London, the International Spring Fair featured presentations from Diplomatic Missions representing over 80 countries and helped to raise funds for the Children and Families Across Borders charity organisation.

The Trinidad and Tobago display was a popular attraction, capturing the attention of patrons intrigued by the dazzling Carnival costumes on show as well as the various national items on sale. Visitors were treated to a variety of indigenous delights including tamarind ball, fudge, sugar cake, local candies and herbal tea. The display also featured eco-friendly jewellery from Nature Seekers made from recycled glass, paper, bamboo and coconut shells, striking representations of the talent and resourcefulness of local artists.

Apart from the display, Trinidad and Tobago's culture shined brightly as a steel pan band took to the main stage, regaling the packed crowds with the classic sound of the islands.Without a doubt, the hit of the Fair was the Trinidad and Tobago rum punch, which had countless patrons streaming back for more. As they milled around the display sipping their drinks, many visitors remarked on the warmth and friendliness of the Trinidad and Tobago people and the beauty of the islands.

The High Commission staff shared information with guests on the myriad world class eco-tourism opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago, including the Wild Fowl Trust, Nariva Swamp, Buccoo Reef and Pigeon Park Reserve The promotion of eco-tourism is a top priority on the agenda of High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas, who has reaffirmed his commitment to promoting Trinidad and Tobago not simply as a sun, sea and sand destination, but as a unique attraction with diverse offerings especially for eco-tourists.

The Trinidad and Tobago display enjoyed the attention of over 2,000 Ambassadors, specially invited guests and members of the public. Tourism Attaché, Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips, expressed her satisfaction with the high degree of exposure afforded to Trinidad and Tobago, remarking, "Trinidad and Tobago received considerable attention from the diplomatic community and general public throughout the duration of the International Fair. The High Commission looks forward to building on our heightened profile as we strive to establish our country as a preferred destination for tourism".

T&T WINS GOLD AT CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

Pictured L-R: *Mrs. Patricia Maharaj, Director Horticultural Services Division, Ministry of Food Production, Mr. Alfonso Roper, Manager, Botanic Gardens of Trinidad and Tobago, Ministry of Food Production, Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips, Tourism Attaché, Mr. Anthony Tang Kai, Vice President Horticultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago and Mr. Bernard Beckles, designer of this years presentation.*

The Trinidad and Tobago Horticultural Society presented yet another prize-winning presentation at the world renowned RHS Chelsea Flower Show in the United Kingdom for their 2013 display – "Colour Me T & T" on May 20th 2013. The Show concluded on Saturday 25th May.

This result represented the sixteenth Gold that the Trinidad and Tobago Horticultural Society has received. Gold Medals are awarded only to exhibits of outstanding and consistent excellence. This year's gold medal was awarded in the Grenfell range.

Founded in 1913, the Chelsea Flower Show is globally recognised as the premier event of its kind. Gardeners spend close to one month creating the most imaginative horticultural designs over an eleven acre site in Chelsea's Royal Hospital Gardens.

Trinidad and Tobago's presentation was on par with the best in the world, with a vibrant display of exotic flowers such as anthuriums and ginger lilies as well as local produce including mangoes and cocoa pods. The concept of the display was inspired by the landscape artwork of Jean Michael Cazabon, who is widely regarded as the first great Trinidadian painter. The exhibit was a depiction of a work of art within a picture frame, incorporating themes from Trinidad and Tobago's history to our present.

The formation of an African drum on one side with the steelpan on the other illustrated the evolution of our people and our art form.

This is the first time such a large contingent from Trinidad and Tobago has travelled to the UK to compete in the Chelsea Flower Show. The delegation was comprised of members of the Horticultural Society, including new designer Mr. Bernard Beckles, Ms. Eualalie Brewster, Theresa Chasteau and Anthony Tang Kai, one of the stalwarts of the competition. Trinidad and Tobago was also represented by Ms. Patricia Maharaj and Mr. Alfonso Roper, both of the Ministry of Food Production.

Representatives of the High Commission for Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom, including Tourism Attaché, Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips, were at hand to congratulatethe winning delegation. The fantastic display of talent was lauded by many visitors to the stand, all of whom were given tourism brochures by the High Commission staff, and invited to visit Trinidad and Tobago to personally explore its beauty and unique culture. Remarked Mr. Tang Kai, "It was important to us to promote not only our booth at this event, but Trinidad and Tobago as a tourist destination".

On Saturday 25th, His Excellency Garvin Nicholas hosted a reception at his private residence to celebrate the achievement of the gold winning delegation. Nicholas described the win as a prime example of the creativity and innovation of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

T&T CULTURE HEATS UP LONDON

THE WORLD ON REGENT STREET

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission for the United Kingdom lit the heart of London ablaze on Sunday 12th May with a spectacular celebration of Trinidad and Tobago culture at "The World on Regent Street" global fair.

As throngs of visitors coursed through the event, thousands of patrons converged on the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission's section, enthralled by the explosion of colours, pulsating tempo of calypso and soca music, rich aromas of native cuisine such as roti and bake and buljol, and the liveliest ambiance most Londoners had ever seen. The indigenous rhythms of live steelband and tassa drums resonated powerfully in the air, transporting the crowd to a Carnival dimension. Trinidad and Tobago was the only Caribbean country represented at The World on Regent Street festival, which included showings by The United States of America, France and India, among others. Situated between Piccadilly Circus and Oxford Circus in London, the event proved wildly popular attracting thousands of visitors from various countries.

Without a doubt, the highlight of the festival was the display put on by the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission. The atmosphere was euphoric, with the huge crowd captivated by the live music of native performers including Konata Alleyne, John Blood and Nikisha Reyes-Pile. The massive audience was also treated to performances by traditional mas characters, the Midnight Robber, Fancy Indian, Pierrot Grenade and Dame Lorraine, who took to the crowds and posed for delighted patrons. Dancers heightened the revelry as their dazzling Carnival costumes lit up the crowd.

Thrilled patrons soon learned how to emulate the Carnival dancers as they participated in chutney and soca dancing classes, with many vowing to visit Trinidad and Tobago to experience the real Carnival.

The excitement of the crowd

reached a pitch when the final performers of the day, the iconic 3Canal took the stage. Trinidad and Tobago natives and Londoners alike waved the national red, white and black flags high as they danced to the electrifying melody of the band's classic tunes, including "Talk Yuh Talk" and "Blue".

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas was pleased by the large turnout and excitement of visitors to the Trinidad and Tobago section, noting that it was a great testament to the tremendous global appeal of Trinidad and Tobago's culture.

He emphasised his commitment to promoting Trinidad and Tobago on an international scale, remarking, "As High Commissioner, I continuously strive to utilise innovative avenues which will showcase our rich and vibrant culture in the United Kingdom and beyond."

Pictured 1: *A mix of old and new - traditional and modern Carnival masqueraders.* ***2:*** *Tassa group performs as crowd dances.* ***3:*** *John Blood & the Highlys performing some iconic Trinidad & Tobago songs.* ***4:*** *A massive crowd celebrates in front the TTHC tent on Regent Street*
5: *His Excellency Garvin Nicholas with his wife, Dr. Nicola Alcala and rapso group 3 Canal.*
6: *Dame Lorraine parades for the crowd.* ***7:*** *Caribbean Airlines representatives were on hand promoting holiday getaways to Trinidad & Tobago.* ***8:*** *TTHC staff members Ms. Wendy Ann Austin, Financial Attaché, Mrs. Donna Philip-Forde and Mrs. Karen Thomas, Trade Facilitator waving their flags.*

T&T TOURISM CHARITY RACE AT NEWMARKET JULY COURSE

On Saturday June 8th, the Animal Health Trust held its Gala Race Day 2013, the Newmarket July Course.

One of the races, the Trinidad and Tobago Tourism Charity Race, was sponsored by the Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Board, and proved to be a great success.

Pictured: *Tourism Attaché Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips presents prizes to the trainer of the winning race horse.*

Tourism Attaché, Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips attended and presented trophies to the winning owner, jockey and trainer.

The Animal Health Trust held an auction in the VIP Marquee with over 250 guests present. The Trinidad and Tobago Tourist Board sponsored an all-inclusive week's holiday for two at the Coco Reef Resort and Spa in Tobago, a prize which was highly sought after. Bidders clamoured for the chance to win the island getaway package, with the auctioneer's gavel closing on a final bid of £4,000.

The winners will also be treated to excursions around the island, ensuring that they receive a full experience of Tobago's unparalleled natural and cultural attractions.

Ms. Phillips was extremely pleased with the tremendous demand for the Tobago getaway package, noting that it was a great illustration of Tobago's reputation as an internationally renowned tourist destination.

Pictured: *Tourism Attaché Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips and Sir Anthony Bevan present prizes to the jockey of the winning race horse.*

Ms. Bianca Beddoe
Communications Officer

THE MISSION WELCOMES NEW COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

In April, the Mission warmly welcomed our new Communications Officer, Miss Bianca Beddoe. Miss Beddoe has enthusiastically embraced her role and currently manages all public relations and content creation for the High Commission's various media channels, with the objective of fostering a strong international identity for Trinidad and Tobago.

Miss Beddoe is an experienced Communications professional with a penchant for writing and a keen interest in cultural relations. "I am pleased to have the opportunity to assist with the advancement of Trinidad and Tobago's rich and diverse culture in the international sphere," she stated. "I am passionate about Trinidad and Tobago and I am extremely proud of the work our Mission does to bolster the profile of our islands in the United Kingdom and beyond".

BOURNEMOUTH FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL'S TRINIDAD & TOBAGO DAY

High Commission brings T&T culture to Bournemouth

The coastal town of Bournemouth, UK, was abuzz with the sounds of live steel pan and soca music during the "Trinidad and Tobago Day" on Saturday 22nd June. The event was part of the Bournemouth Food and Drink Festival sponsored by the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission.

Hundreds of visitors converged in Bournemouth's city centre to experience a taste of the islands. Locals were treated to a showcase of Trinidad and Tobago's culture, including a dazzling array of costumed masqueraders who gave the audience a tease of Carnival, as well as a story telling segment about Trinidad and Tobago's native folklore.

The Bournemouth audience thoroughly enjoyed themselves, with locals as well as a sprinkling of Trinidad and Tobago nationals taking to the dance floor and letting loose to the soca music. Visitors were also able to partake in a delectable array of indigenous cuisine from D' Coal Pot restaurant, including roti, doubles and pelau.

The Trinidad and Tobago High Commission's booth attracted a large volume of visitors eager to receive more information about the islands and its attractions. Tourism Attaché Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips and the High Commission staff distributed Trinidad and Tobago tourism and culture brochures and chatted with members of the crowd about the unique tourist experiences offered in Trinidad and Tobago.

Visitors expressed their pleasure that the High Commission had brought Trinidad and Tobago's dynamic cuisine, drinks, music and art forms to Bournemouth.

***Pictured**:*
(top) The crowd enjoys the steel pan performance

(below) Staff members at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission's booth.

Pictured: *The massive crowd in front of the Triniidad and Tobago main stage*

T&T CELEBRATION OF CULTURE AT IP-ART FESTIVAL, IPSWICH

On Saturday 29th June, 2013, a massive crowd experienced a true celebration of Trinidad and Tobago's music, cuisine and culture at the annual Ip-Art Festival held at the scenic Christchurch Park in Ipswich, UK. The event was sponsored by the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission to the United Kingdom, and is one of the largest showcases of T&T's culture in the United Kingdom.

There was no mistaking that this was Trinidad and Tobago's day. The huge stage was draped on either side with large "Trinidad and Tobago" banners, and decorated throughout with red, white and black bunting. Tourism Attaché Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips ensured that the throngs of visitors received a proper education in Trinidad and Tobago's history as a creative and musical hub.

Patrons were impressed to learn that Trinidad and Tobago produced the only new musical instrument of the 20th century, the steel pan, and were excited to try their hand on the steel pan displayed at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission's tent. The tent also featured musical instruments, such as the tassa and other drums, as well as information detailing their histories and uses in Trinidad and Tobago's culture. UK nationals were enthralled by the images of Trinidad and Tobago contained in the various tourism and cultural brochures given away by the High Commission staff, with many expressing their intention to visit the islands.

Patrons received a live experience of Trinidad and Tobago's culture, one they will not soon forget. Thousands of visitors converged on the Trinidad and Tobago stage, drawn in by the rousing melodies of steel pan and calypso. The CSI Steelband took to the stage first, performing a medley of classic calypso and soca hits. Their vibrancy was infectious, and the energetic crowd danced and waved in a scene reminiscent to the Savannah Greens during the Panorama competition.

Headline performers that day were 2011 Chutney Soca Monarch Rikki Jai and soca icon Denise "Saucy Wow" Belfon. Both performers exemplified the diversity and unique culture of Trinidad

and Tobago. Jai electrified the crowd with hits including "Mor Tor" and "White Oak and Water". Denise Belfon had the crowd in a frenzy as she displayed her famous dancing skills and performed timeless tunes such as "Ka Ka Lay Lay", "De Jamette", "Indian Man" and "Saucy Baby".

As the festivities wound to a close, Ms. Phillips took to the stage to thank the crowd for participating in a fantastic day of cultural celebration. "This has been a great showing of Trinidad and Tobago's creativity, ingenuity and incomparable culture," she said. "From the steel pan and Carnival to our soca music and unique cuisine, the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission is proud to have shared the best of Trinidad and Tobago with you all".

Pictured 1: *Adrian Jaikaran performs on the electronic steel pan.* ***2:*** *Ipswich Mayor Hamil Clarke and his partner Daisy receive a gift bag from Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips, Tourism Attaché.* ***3:*** *Rikki Jai is delighted to see the Indian drums at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission's tent.* ***4:*** *Nikisha Reyes-Pile performs soca hits.* ***5:*** *Denise Belfon thrills the crowd;* ***6:*** *Achi-Kemba Phillips, Tourism Attaché teaches youngsters how to play the steel pan.* ***7:*** *Jade Peters and Lion I perform for the crowd.*

SPIRITUAL SHOUTER BAPTIST LIBERATION DAY CELEBRATIONS

Pictured: *High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas gives an address at the Spiritual Shouter Baptist Thanksgiving Service*

High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas celebrated Spiritual Shouter Baptist Liberation Day with Nationals on Saturday April 06th 2013 at the All Saints Church in Ladbroke Grove, London.

The Tenth Annual Thanksgiving Service was organised by the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission and the Spiritual 'Shouter' Baptist Movement, United Kingdom.

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas in his presentation praised the Spiritual Shouter Baptists group for their resilience in the face of adversity. He reminded all that freedom to worship as one chooses must never be taken for granted and that the Spiritual Baptists had shown strength and purpose in their fight for acceptance.

Members of the various Spiritual Shouter Baptist churches were present in the audience. The Presiding Minister and Coordinator of the event, The Reverend Patricia Stephens welcomed all attendees on the day. Special Guest of Honour was Bishop Wayne Jones from the St Francis Spiritual Baptist Cathedral, Trinidad and Tobago. Entertainment included songs by Tobago Crusoe from his childhood in Tobago.

The evening ended with the blessing of the banquet table and guests were treated to a sumptuous dinner which included many of Trinidad and Tobago's national dishes.

Pictured: *birdseye view of cross section of the congregation.*

NATIONALS CELEBRATE INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY AT THE HIGH COMMISSION

Pictured: *UK Chutney Soca Queen Shirley Rambaran sings for the crowd*

On the evening of Friday 7th June, 2013, hundreds of members of the Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora living in London, UK, converged at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission. The occasion was the observance of Indian Arrival Day, which was feted with an array of cultural performances and a traditional East Indian dinner.

High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas began the proceedings with a feature address praising the cultural diversity of Trinidad and Tobago. "As you know, last Thursday May 30th Trinidad and Tobago marked the 168th Anniversary of the first East Indian indentured labourers arriving on the island's shores," he stated. "In addition, on that day the Catholic community celebrated the feast of Corpus Christi. The co-existence of these two holidays is a quintessential illustration of the harmony and diversity we are blessed to experience as nationals of Trinidad and Tobago".

The High Commissioner also took the opportunity to highlight the achievements of the Trinidad and Tobago Diaspora of East Indian descent, such as Ron Ramdin, the pioneering author and historian whose work did much to promote West Indian culture in the UK. The High Commissioner also recognised contributors to the arts such as Suresh Rambaran who formed the first tassa group in London, as well as Dexter Khan, founder of Cocoyea Mas Band.

The festivities began with a fascinating cultural dance performance by Rohini Kumar, who told stories of Lord Shiva and Lord Krishna through her graceful movements and animated expressions. The energetic dance duo of Jenny Jethwani and Farzana Kamal had the crowd buzzing with their medley of Bollywood and chutney soca moves.

Isabella Birbal had the crowd singing along as she delivered a moving song, while UK Chutney Soca Queen Shirley Rambaran entertained the crowd with song, "When last yuh take a wine on a stranger".

The G&H Tassa Drummers closed the show and had the audience clamouring for more.

Guests arriving at the High Commission marvelled at a special exhibition of images sourced from the National Archives of Trinidad and Tobago, illustrating the journey of the East Indian immigrants and their arrival in Trinidad and Tobago.

Over 200 nationals travelled from as far as Luton

and Croydon to attend the event in Central London and expressed their delight at the High Commission's celebration. "I couldn't keep my feet on the ground for the tassa!" exclaimed Mrs. Mona Gosine. "This event was fantastic, such a great way to celebrate our culture". Another guest, Sister Monica, declared, "I'm really impressed. These events are so important to bridge the gap between the old and young members of the Diaspora".

The High Commissioner left the audience with a stirring reminder, "Remember our forefathers' sense of purpose. It is my wish that we rediscover that drive so that our children can take ownership of a proud history and a bright future"

Pictured: *A section of the images displayed in the Foyer of the High Commissoin, courtesy of the Trinidad and Tobago National Archives.*

"HERO" LAUNCH AT THE MISSION

HERO, a feature documentary film inspired by the life of Trinidadian war hero, lawyer and diplomat Ulric Cross, is currently in production. On June 12th, 2013, the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London hosted a press conference and information session to announce the film's UK production phase to the Caribbean Diaspora.

The 75 minute feature documentary will be filmed across the UK, Trinidad and Tobago and Africa. The story gives insight to Cross' early years growing up in colonial Trinidad, his wartime experience with the RAF, and his diplomatic career, including his service as the Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner to the United Kingdom in the nineties.

The film's director, British-born Trinidadian Frances-Anne Solomon declared, "HERO explores not just the life, but also the times that Ulric Cross

Director Frances-Anne Solomon explains her vision for the film "HERO"

was born into and starred in. It highlights the often unsung heroism of many Trinidadian and Diaspora nationals whose lives intersected with his, including George Padmore, CLR James, Henry Sylvester Williams, Learie Constantine, and Claudia Jones. Ultimately, the film is about us, who we are as Caribbean people and as citizens of the world."

Ms. Solomon called for the support of all present in the production of and marketing thereafter of the film. The Hero Team looks forward to recruiting actors, crew and local partners during filming in the UK later this year.

HERO is produced by Hero Film Limited, and partners to date include Republic Bank T&T (Title Sponsor), the Trinidad and Tobago Film Company, BGTT, Visual Arts and Production, and LIAT.

For more information

Please visit: francesannesolomon.net/heroforalltime or email: herofilm2012@gmail.com

HIGH COMMISSION PAYS TRIBUTE TO TONY MARTIN

High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas hosted a reception at the High Commission on May 09, 2013 to celebrate the life and legacy of the late Professor Anthony Martin.

Professor Tony Martin, who died on 24 January 2013 in Trinidad, was Professor Emeritus of Africana Studies at Wellesley College where he taught for 34 years. He studied Economics at the University of Hull and qualified as an attorney at the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn, London, United Kingdom. He was a brilliant scholar, Pan-African activist and writer and was considered the world's foremost authority on Marcus Garvey.

In his Welcoming address, His Excellency said that: "I am struck by Professor Martin's legacy as it is representative of the significant contributions our Diaspora have made on the world sphere. His is an inspiring story of how a boy from a small island grew up to become one of the foremost authorities on Africana Studies, and influence so many across the world. A brilliant scholar and ardent activist, Professor Martin was a true son of Trinidad and Tobago and I am happy for the opportunity to celebrate his memory here at the Mission."

His Excellency further stated that Tony Martin made the Caribbean region proud as an advocate of development through education at home and abroad and that his contribution to the scholastic and personal development of countless students is profound. He reminded us that this philosophy of service and passion for learning is one that we must inculcate in the young people of our region as we strive to build a globally competitive nation, in which the development of independent and innovative thinkers is paramount.

"There are invaluable lessons which can be gleaned from Martin's legacy, and chief among them is the importance of not being afraid to go forth and speak our truths, and make our marks. We may hail from a small island, but like Tony Martin, we must never be afraid to make a difference".

The feature address was given by Professor Cecil Gutzmore who gave an enlightening account of Professor Tony Martin's books and other literary works referring to events which shaped Tony Martin's life and his writing.

He spoke in particular of Tony Martin's work on Marcus Garvey which influenced the lives of African people. He described Tony Martin as a master of many disciplines, subjects, literacy and cultural studies as well as a political scientist and biographer.

Ms. Carol Houghton, sister of Tony Martin and Femi Martin, his niece, read extracts from 'Tony the Trini from Woodbrook (2001)', an autobiographical work which was discovered after his passing. These extracts gave an indication of the early life experiences and great sense of humour of the great academic and historian.

Ms. Femi Martin also performed 'Folklore', a story that she wrote during her time as Dickens 2012 Young Writer in Residence that explored themes of legacy and the importance of family.

Vote of Thanks was given by Mr. Ansel Wong who also helped to organise the event.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by Debra Romain on pan and Calypsonian Alexander D' Great who wrote a special song for the event entitled simply 'Tony Martin'.

A number of close friends and family who attended the event thanked the High Commissioner for hosting the reception.

Pictured: L-R: *Mr. Ansel Wong, Ms. Carol Houghton, His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, Ms. Femi Martin and Prof. Gutzmore*

APRIL NATIONALS' MEETING - V.C.T.T.

High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas to TT Nationals: Your wellbeing is my priority

Pictured: His Excellency and Mr. James Walker (VCTT)

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in the United Kingdom urged members of the TT Diaspora to alert him to any problems or issues they are facing while living in Britain, stating, "my most fulfilling and significant role as High Commissioner is ensuring the wellbeing of Trinidad and Tobago nationals". Guests were afforded the opportunity to socialise with the High Commissioner as he engaged personally with them at the end of the formal part of the evening.

His Excellency delivered this address to a large audience at the Trinidad and Tobago Nationals' Meeting which is held monthly at the High Commission in London. The monthly meetings provide a forum for nationals to discuss current events in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as a platform for connectivity among the Diaspora. The High Commissioner fielded an array of questions from the crowd, including queries on the burning issue of the increased Air Passenger Duty (APD) travel tax and how it has affected Caribbean tourism.

On the agenda for April's meeting was a presentation by Mr. James Walker, a young national, on the Volunteer Center of Trinidad and Tobago (VCTT). VCTT is a youth-run organisation based in Trinidad, established to connect willing individuals with volunteering opportunities suited to their backgrounds and skill sets.

Mr. Walker spoke passionately about the need for Trinidad and Tobago nationals to get actively involved with charitable causes in their homeland, saying "We have become a global village and must be cognisant of the contribution we can make. Here in the United Kingdom we have had different opportunities with unique experiences and perspectives that can hugely benefit charity organisations at home".

His Excellency commended Mr. Walker on his strident sense of social entrepreneurship, noting that his drive was indicative of the young generation's strong communal and innovative spirit. The High Commissioner encouraged nationals to get involved with VCTT and other charity organisations in Trinidad and Tobago as a means of assisting in the country's development. "We are a giving people and a talented people," he remarked, "and must use our talents to contribute to the development of our home country."

To get more information about the Volunteer Center of Trinidad and Tobago and current Volunter projects please visit: **www.vctt.org** *or like facebook page:* **vctt.org**

MAY NATIONALS' MEETING - PROFESSOR CUDJOE LECTURES ON HISTORY

TT High Commission hosts Cudjoe talk on Caribbean Slavery

At the monthly Nationals' Meeting held at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London, UK on Wednesday 29th May, a packed audience listened with rapt attention as Professor Selwyn Cudjoe delivered a provocative lecture titled "Ignorant Negroes and Tyrannical Masters: William Burnley and Caribbean Slavery".

The evening began with His Excellency Garvin Nicholas addressing the crowd. The High Commissioner, fresh off a hectic 2-day ceremonial visit to Liverpool, recounted his experience in the city. He mused on his visit to the International Slavery Museum earlier that day, where he had been impressed by the comprehensive detailing of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. The High Commissioner remarked to the crowd, "Seeing such a stark representation of what the slaves went through, and to still have survived the ordeal, to have overcome it, to have strived and to have excelled – this illustrates a very, very strong people. I am proud to be of mixed descent and I am also proud to be a product of African heritage".

As Professor Cudjoe took to the floor, it was evident that this was a man brimming with knowledge of his country's history. He delivered an impassioned analysis of slavery in Trinidad through the lens of William Burnley, one of the most prominent plantation owners in the Caribbean. Cudjoe explained the close links between Burnley and many eminent legislators in Britain, which resulted in his significant influence on the topic of Emancipation.

According to Cudjoe, Burnley was a staunch antagonist of the abolition of slavery, leading the charge against the Emancipation Movement. "Burnley believed the enslaved Africans had not reached a proper state of civilisation," declared Cudjoe.

Professor Cudjoe also recounted that Burnley was a key proponent of East Indian indentureship. He spoke of Burnley's letters to legislators, in which he emphasised the economic pressures brought on by newly-freed Africans' demand for increased wages, and the benefits of a "docile" East Indian work force whose "caste prejudices" would deter them from mixing with Africans, hence eliminating the problem of wage disputes.

Professor Cudjoe explained that it was imperative that the people of Trinidad and Tobago be educated about their history, stating that citizens should "dare to know". He added that Caribbean history is largely unexplored, although there is much to learn from an indigenous perspective. "We ought to know our history", he asserted. "The only way we can move forward is by knowing and learning from our history".

The High Commissioner commended Professor Cudjoe's address, emphasising the importance of educating the citizenry to have pride in their heritage. "It is time that we stop seeing ourselves as 'lesser than'", stated Nicholas. "Understanding our history is pertinent to developing this sense of empowerment".

Pictured above: *Professor Selwyn Cudjoe and The High Commissioner;* ***Below:*** *The High Commissioner welcomes the audience.*

JUNE NATIONALS' MEETING

Pictured: *Tourism Attaché Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips and Mrs. Beverley Awonaya guide the audience through the activity*

High Commission's June Nationals' Meeting takes a Tourism Twist.

Tourism Attaché Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips introduced a fresh, interactive spin on the High Commission's monthly Nationals' meeting on Wednesday 26th June. Rather than the usual lecture format, nationals participated in a brainstorming exercise centring on tourism in Trinidad and Tobago.

Nationals were divided into 4 groups and asked to devise innovative ways to promote Trinidad and Tobago as a world class tourism destination, with group leaders presenting ideas to the rest of the audience at the session's end. Groups also focused on questions of fostering Trinidad and Tobago's tourism investment potential as well as methods of tackling the debilitating effect of crime on the tourism industry.

One group leader, Mr. Roger Ferreira, gave the recommendation that the country's tourism investment potential could be further developed by focusing on international partnerships in the energy sector and organising more oil and gas training sessions on local shores.

Another leader, Gerry Rawlins, tackled the issue of the Diaspora's role in promoting Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Rawlins emphasised the importance of educating nationals at home and abroad on the culture, arts, literature and natural and historical attractions of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as its local products such as cocoa and rum. He stated that nationals could not promote Trinidad and Tobago effectively without a proper understanding and awareness of its attributes.

Ms. Phillips chaired the meeting and was highly impressed by the nationals' enthusiasm and ingenuity. "As Tourism Attaché, mobilising the support of the Diaspora in promoting Trinidad and Tobago to an international market is integral to the sector's development," Ms. Phillips stated. "Our Mission looks forward to further initiatives which will capitalise on the resources of our foreign based nationals and positively impact Trinidad and Tobago".

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HIGH COMMISSION HOSTS THE TIMES DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

Pictured: *Mr. Roger Boyes (middle) relays a story to the crowd*

Diplomatic press officers must find innovative ways to make the stories of their countries known on the global stage. This was the focus of the discussion on Friday 21st June when the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission hosted Mr. Roger Boyes, Diplomatic Editor of *The Times* newspaper in London, UK.

The event was organised by the Diplomatic Press Attachés Association London (DPAAL). DPAAL was established in 2008 as an organisation for foreign Press Attachés in the UK.

The event commenced with a welcome from High Commissioner Garvin Nicholas, who highlighted the important platform DPAAL provided for the advancement of diplomatic ties and voicing the issues of developing nations. The High Commissioner applauded the work of the diplomatic press community, stating that its contribution to knowledge transfer and cultural exchange was vital.

Mr. Boyes' presentation centred on the rapidly evolving sphere of press and media, and the press attaché's challenge of ensuring the stories of their home countries become a part of the global conversation. Speaking from his experience of more than 35 years as a foreign press correspondent, Boyes shared strategic insight into ways diplomatic press officers could tailor their product to create increased exposure. "London is a global city," Boyes stated. "To be part of the national conversation is to have your voice heard on a global scale. The question for press officers is – how do you become part of it?"

Boyes emphasised the importance of branding when presenting a story to the media. He declared, "You must make your subjects appealing to the audience, and your story must come from an angle that is compelling and new."

He also noted the necessity of diplomatic press officers feeding into the British debate, ensuring the relevance of their story to the national audience.

Boyes urged the audience to "penetrate the newspapers" by talking to the staff directly, building a rapport so the communication of news stories takes on a personal element between the journalist and the diplomatic press officer's home country.

Additionally, Boyes spoke on the importance of utilising unconventional media channels to get a story across, such as newspapers' Opinion Editorial columns.

Mr. Boyes noted that the changing media structure had given way to two audiences existing online, the national and the global.

He concluded his presentation with the message that diplomatic press officers must relay a universal perspective in their news stories to ensure that their country's issues reached a mass audience.

HIGH COMMISSIONER HOSTS MISS T&T UK

His Excellency Garvin Nicholas chats with Miss Trinidad and Tobago UK, Janelle Fraser

Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom, was pleased to host the reigning Miss Trinidad and Tobago, UK, Janelle Fraser on Monday April 22nd.

Miss Fraser, who hails from Maracas Valley, St. Joseph, was crowned in September 2012 and was about to embark on a 10-day tour of her home country. "I can't wait to go home and see my family!" she exclaimed, her face alight with excitement. "I make sure to visit Trinidad at least once a year – it's home".

Ms. Fraser hoped to meet with the Prime Minister and other Government Ministers during her time in Trinidad and Tobago, and looked forward to further opportunities for promoting her country in the United Kingdom.

The 22 year old beauty is a graduate of Nottingham Trent University with a BA Honours in Media and Communications. Miss Fraser speaks with a poise and composure that belie her young age.

Indeed, she credits the Miss Trinidad and Tobago, UK pageant with instilling a great sense of confidence in her. "Miss Trinidad and Tobago is more than a pageant," she remarked. "You gain so much confidence, which is so important as a young lady. The training I received has really moulded me to become a good Ambassador for Trinidad and Tobago".

The High Commissioner commended Ms. Fraser's national pride and her determination to stay connected with her place of birth. "Above all it is very important, especially for members of the Diaspora, to know your roots," he said. "That connection with your past gives you the confidence of knowing who you are".

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TRINIDAD & TOBAGO DESIGNER HEADS SAVILE ROW NEW COLLECTION

Pictured: (L -R) *Mr. Mark Ramprakash, His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, Mr. Andrew Ramroop ABE, Mr. Brian Lara, Mr. Neil Latchman*

On Monday 17th June, the elite clothing line Savile Row Collections displayed its men's designs at the Long Room in the Lords Cricket Pavilion, London, UK. Press and media were on hand to view the unique showing of the very best in Savile Row's "sartorial artistry", as Master Tailor Andrew Ramroop describes his firm's work.

Trinidadian born Andrew Ramroop OBE, CMTT (gold) is celebrating his 25th anniversary at the helm of the famous firm, MAURICE SEDWELL. Ramroop journey with Savile Row began in 1974, when the young London College of Fashion graduate was chosen by Savile Row founder Maurice Sedwell to become his assistant. Located on London's Fleet Street, Maurice Sedwell Ltd. grew from a gold medal-winning tailor shop to one of the UK's best known names in Bespoke Tailoring.

The star studded event was choreographed by GQ UK stylist Jo Levin and featured the work of twenty of Savile Row's finest tailors. Designs featured fresh summer looks, including blazers, sportswear and summer suits. All designs were personally overseen by Ramroop, who in 2008 coined the Andrew Ramroop Tailoring Standards (ARTS) which is now the benchmark for Savile Row tailoring standards.

Savile Row is renowned in the UK, with high profile clients ranging from captains of industry, sports stars, politicians and entertainers. Guests at the event included His Excellency Garvin Nicholas, High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to London, former Australian pace-man Geoff Thompson, Trinidadian opera singer Neil Latchman, celebrated England cricketers Mark Ramprakash and Grahame Gooch as well as Trinidadian cricket icon Brian Lara.

Maurice Sedwell clothing can be viewed online at *www.savilerowtailor.com*.

SPOTLIGHT ON: T&T CRICKETERS

In June, the West Indies Cricket Team travelled to the United Kingdom to participate in the ICC Champion's Trophy Tournament 2013. Although our boys were knocked out after a less than stellar performance, it was clear that this squad is brimming with passion and an ardent desire to make their countries and region proud.

Notably, players from Trinidad and Tobago comprised half of the team. Here is a look at our Trinidad and Tobago players who gave their all on the cricket pitch:

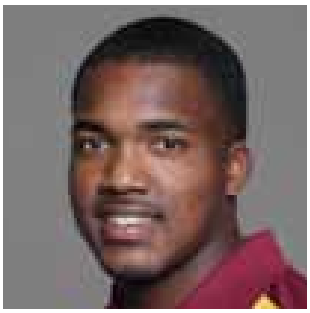
DWAYNE BRAVO

Dwayne Bravo is a highly talented all-rounder who has taken a leading role in the drive to return the Windies to international prominence.

Records: World's best bowling figures in an ODI match as a captain in a bilateral series; World's best bowling average and bowling strike rate Bravo thrilled T&T with his prowess as part of the West Indies team which won the 2012 ICC World Twenty20.

Teams Played:
West Indies, Chennai, Mumbai, Victoria, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, Sydney Sixers, Trinidad and Tobago Red Steel

DARREN BRAVO



As opposed to his brother Dwayne, Darren Bravo is a left handed batsman whose batting style has drawn comparisons with the legendary Brian Lara. Also an occasional wicket-keeper, he made his first-class and list A debut for Trinidad and Tobago in 2007, before he found a place in the West Indies Under-19 team in 2008

Teams Played:

West Indies, Hyderabad, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago Red Steel

KIERON POLLARD

Kieron Pollard is one of the hardest strikers of the ball in cricket and is also a useful medium-pace bowler. With the reputation of a solid hitter, Kieron Pollard's feats on the domestic circuit and his remarkable display in the 2009 Champions League T20 have led him to become a household name.

Teams Played:

West Indies, South Australia, Mumbai, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, Adelaide Strikers, Dhaka Gladiators, Barbados Tridents

DENESH RAMDIN

Denesh Ramdin is a wicket-keeper batsman who has been touted as a future captain. Although plagued with poor form, Ramdin recently silenced critics with an unbeaten 107 runs in the 2012 Test series against England

Teams Played:

West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies, Guyana Amazon Warriors

Pictured: *Mr. David Hinkson, Immigration Attaché, Ms. Achi-Kemba Phillips, Tourism Attaché with the T&T members of the West Indies cricket team, at the Welcome Reception held for them on 9th June, 2013.*

SUNIL NARINE

Such was the impact of his performance in a trial match where he bagged all ten wickets that Sunil Narine was immediately called up to the Trinidad & Tobago squad in 2009.

Narine's high-arm bowling action is deceptive for the batsmen, who often fail to read him and are trapped sooner than they realize.

Teams Played:

West Indies,
Kolkata,
Trinidad and Tobago,
West Indies,
Sydney Sixers,
Barisal Burners,
Guyana Amazon Warriors

RAVI RAMPAUL

As a teenager, Ravi Rampaul first grabbed eyeballs with some sizzling performances in the 2000 World Under-15 Challenge, followed by some impressive performances for the West Indies Under-19 sides and club Trinidad and Tobago.

Teams Played:

West Indies,
Bangalore,
Trinidad and Tobago,
West Indies,
Jamaica Tallawahs

UPCOMING MISSION EVENTS

JULY

31st: Nationals' Meeting/ Emancipation Celebrations

TBA: Young Professionals' Networking Meeting -

AUGUST

28th: Nationals' Meeting

SEPTEMBER

1st: Independence Church Service

25th: Nationals' Meeting

**** Events will be added and updated to the High Commission website:***

www.tthighcommission.co.uk

Make sure to register as a national either by email or in the High Commission to keep abreast of our exciting events!

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO WRITER WINS 2013 COMMONWEALTH SHORT STORY PRIZE

Sharon Millar is a Trinidadian writer who lives in Port of Spain with her husband and daughter. She is particularly driven by the landscape of her homeland and her work touches on issues that affect her as a Trinidadian citizen and as a woman. The worlds of her stories are occupied by protagonists who

Pictured: *Mrs. Sharon Millar*

struggle with moral issues, crime, illness, loyalty, betrayal, and all the other messy things that make up a life. Writing from a Caribbean island right here and right now allows her to illuminate complications that lie beneath the surface of a young state trying to move forward as a cohesive society. She is conscious of pushing past the Caribbean stereotypes of exoticism and tries to create characters that are universal in their desires and conflicts.

"When a story grows legs and begins to run, it's both humbling and enormously exhilarating. It's almost impossible to describe the delight and excitement of winning The Commonwealth Short Story Prize. I'd like to thank Commonwealth Writers for their continuing support of new and upcoming writers. It is an honour to represent my country and homeland Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean region. For writers who live far from the metropolis, prizes such as this are a dream come true. They also provide powerful motivation to continue writing and, on that note, I'd like to thank my story The Whale House for bringing me along for the ride."

The Whale House

As a woman recovers from a miscarriage, it resurrects an old conflict and a long kept secret. Bush medicine, teenage sexuality, and difficult moral choices culminate in a uniquely Trinidadian story of marriage and the secrets we keep from the ones closest to us.

Commonwealth Writers inspires writers, storytellers and a range of cultural practitioners to work for social change. It builds communities of less heard and emerging voices to influence, directly and indirectly, the decision making processes which affect their lives.

In line with this vision, the Commonwealth Book Prize and Short Story Prize unearth talented writers to take part in online residencies and on-the-ground activities. As well as inspiring others through their work. You can see how their other projects act in the same way on their website: **www.commonwealthwriters.org**

FAREWELL TO STAFF

Pictured: *Ms. Roanna Gopaul and Mr. Narinesingh Lal*

As is the norm with overseas Missions, at some point our diplomatic staff members must return home to continue their service to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

This quarter we bid a fond farewell to two stalwarts of the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, Ms. Roanna Gopaul (Head of Chancery) and Mr. Narinesingh Lal (Immigration Attache).

We thank them for their service and wish them both the very best!

Pictured - Top left: *The High Commissioner chats with students at the Mission's Indian Arrival Day Celebrations.* **Top right:** *Mrs. Beverley Awonaya leads the audience in a recital of Trinidad and Tobago's national pledge at June's Nationals' Meeting* **Bottom right:** *Nationals smile for the camera at The Mission's Indian Arrival Day celebrations .* **Bottom left:** *The High Commissioner in a pensive mood as he reflects on the entrance wall at the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool*

GraceKennedy – Showing the Spirit of Giving

Xtra Foods and Western Union Thank Customers

It was a day of fun, family and putting shoppers first at Naipaul's Xtra Foods in Grand Bazaar as the supermarket held their annual "Customer Appreciation Day." GraceKennedy's Western Union team was on hand for the second year in a row to thank customers. Held on October 27th 2012, the day's activities included balloon giveaways, bouncy castles, face painting and free sample items.

On the Road for Cancer Awareness

In late October 2012, 11 GraceKennedy staffers joined with Republic Bank and the Trinidad and Tobago Cancer Society to take part in the "Annual Cancer Remembrance Walk." The annual walk is a celebration of survival, empowerment and awareness, and GraceKennedy was proud to have been involved in 2012. Held on Saturday 27th October, the day's activities also included an aerobics session in which GraceKennedy employees participated.

Sharing Christmas in Pleasantville

It was much more than a "pleasant" occasion on December 9th 2012, as Western Union took part in Pleasantville Supermarket's first children's Christmas party. An estimated 500 children from the southern community, accompanied by their parents, enjoyed the festive event. Western Union was the main sponsor of the Christmas party.

Spreading Christmas Joy

Thanks to GraceKennedy some very special children enjoyed a special Christmas last year. The company gave gifts to residents of the Grace Community Complex (a home for children with disabilities) and the Adonna Home (for abandoned children). Every GraceKennedy employee chose at least one child for whom they purchased a present.

The end of the year is traditionally seen as the season of giving, and in the final months of 2012, GraceKennedy (Trinidad and Tobago) Ltd. represented that charitable spirit through several activities in communities throughout the nation. The provider of Bill Express bill payment services, FX Trader money exchange services and Western Union remittance services throughout Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean, closed off the year by supporting children, the community and of course, its valued customers.

20th ANNIVERSARY

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